

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

## HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.# 72-9-36 Building Date: 1928

Building Name: Doswell Brooks House

Location: 6107 Foote Avenue, Fairmount Heights, Md.

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

### Description:

The Doswell Brooks House is a one-and-one-half-story frame bungalow with hip roof. It is three bays by three, with entrance in the center bay of main north(east) facade. This main facade is sheltered by a porch (now screened) covered by a roof integral with that of the main house. Centered in the north plane of the roof is a small hip-roof dormer which encloses two shallow three-light windows. The original wood siding of the house is now sheathed with yellow synthetic siding, and the roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There is a brick chimney at the ridge of the hip roof, near the rear of the building. The house stands on a high basement of molded concrete block.

### Significance:

The Doswell Brooks House is representative of the small bungalows which were being built in the developing suburbs of the 1920s. It was built in 1928 on a lot in the Mount Wiessner subdivision. The Brooks House was built for Doswell E. and C. Anita Brooks in 1928, after they bought unimproved lot 8 in the Mount Wiessner subdivision of Fairmount Heights. Doswell Brooks was very active in Prince George's County Public Schools; he served as Supervisor of Colored Schools for the County beginning in 1922, and in 1956 was appointed as the first black member of the Board of Education. He also served as a member of the Fairmount Heights town council, and as Mayor from 1955 until shortly before his death in 1968. This bungalow remained the home of Doswell Brooks' widow for nearly 20 years after his death. Although altered by the installation of siding and the screen-enclosure of the porch, it is a representative example of the small bungalows which were being built in the County's suburbs of the 1920s.

Acreage: 6,250 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG#72-9-36

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Doswell Brooks House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 6107 Foote Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Theresa Young

street & number 6107 Foote Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6926

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 636

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG# 72-9-36

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Doswell Brooks House stands at 6107 Foote Avenue (originally Noel Avenue). It was built in 1928 on Lot 8 of the Mount Wiessner subdivision, which was platted in 1909.

The Doswell Brooks House is a one-and-one-half-story frame bungalow with hip roof. It is three bays by three, with entrance in the center bay of main north(east) facade. This main facade is sheltered by a porch (now screened) covered by a roof integral with that of the main house. Centered in the north plane of the roof is a small hip-roof dormer which encloses two shallow three-light windows. The original wood siding of the house is now sheathed with yellow synthetic siding, and the roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There is a brick chimney at the ridge of the hip roof, near the rear of the building. The house stands on a high basement of molded concrete block.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG-72-9-36

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Doswell Brooks House is representative of the small bungalows which were being built in the developing suburbs of the 1920s. It was built in 1928 on a lot in the Mount Wiessner subdivision.

The Town of Fairmount Heights is located just outside the easternmost point of the District of Columbia in Prince George's County, Maryland; it is composed of a group of early twentieth-century subdivisions that form one of the earliest planned communities for blacks in the Washington, D. C., area. The community began with the Fairmount Heights subdivision in 1900, followed by five adjoining subdivisions, the last being Sylvan Vista platted in 1923. The Town was incorporated in 1935, and grew steadily through the years before World War II.

The land which was to become Fairmount Heights consisted, during the late nineteenth century, principally of parts of the small farms of John H. Wilson, John and Caroline Silence, Samuel Hoover, Mosby Brown and John Wiessner, all clustered around the east corner of the District of Columbia. In the early years of the twentieth century, these farms were bought up and subdivided by land speculators, who then began to sell individual lots to black families, most of whom worked in the District of Columbia.

The first section of Fairmount Heights was subdivided in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark (both white men) out of parts of several small farms which they had purchased from the Wilson, Godfrey, Belt and Lee families. White and Clark had approximately fifty acres surveyed by County Surveyor Edward L. Latimer, and laid out in lots and streets radiating from the northeast boundary of the District of Columbia. The deep, narrow lots were generally 25 by 125 feet;

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#72-9-36

Section 8 Page 2

two of the streets were named for these first two developers. Sale of lots began almost immediately, and within a few years, dwellings were constructed and a community began to form.

In 1909, Mount Wiessner, which consisted of 6.5 acres of John C. Wiessner's farmland, was platted by his heirs. This subdivision added a section of larger (generally 50 by 125 feet) residential lots at the southeast end of the original Fairmount Heights subdivision.

From the beginning, blacks were encouraged to buy lots and settle in the new community. White and Clark sold the lots at relatively low prices, making home ownership finally attainable for black families. Most of the earliest purchasers of lots worked for government agencies; many built their own houses, or relied on friends and family to help with construction. Many families were quick to seize the opportunity to move out of the city, determined to progress, by hard work and amid healthful surroundings, toward a better life.

The earliest dwellings were of frame construction, modest in size and form, and many of these have not survived. Within a few years, however, several interesting and substantial houses were constructed for individuals who would make significant contributions to the development of Fairmount Heights.

The Brooks House was built for Doswell E. and C. Anita Brooks in 1928, after they bought unimproved lot 8 in the Mount Wiessner subdivision of Fairmount Heights. Doswell Brooks was very active in Prince George's County Public Schools; he served as Supervisor of Colored Schools for the County beginning in 1922, and in 1956 was appointed as the first black member of the Board of Education. He also served as a member of the Fairmount Heights town council, and as Mayor from 1955 until shortly before his death in 1968.

This bungalow remained the home of Doswell Brooks' widow for nearly 20 years after his death. Although altered by the installation of siding and the screen-enclosure of the porch, it is a representative example of the small bungalows which were being built in the County's suburbs of the 1920s.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-36

Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1923-32  
Prince George's County Administration File #3819  
Journal of Prince George's County Board of Education, Vol. III, 1921-1940  
Floyd, Bianca P., Records and Recollections, M-NCPPC, 1989

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,250 sq ftQuadrangle name Washington EastQuadrangle scale 1:24,000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

TM #66 Mt. Wiessner, Lot 8

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

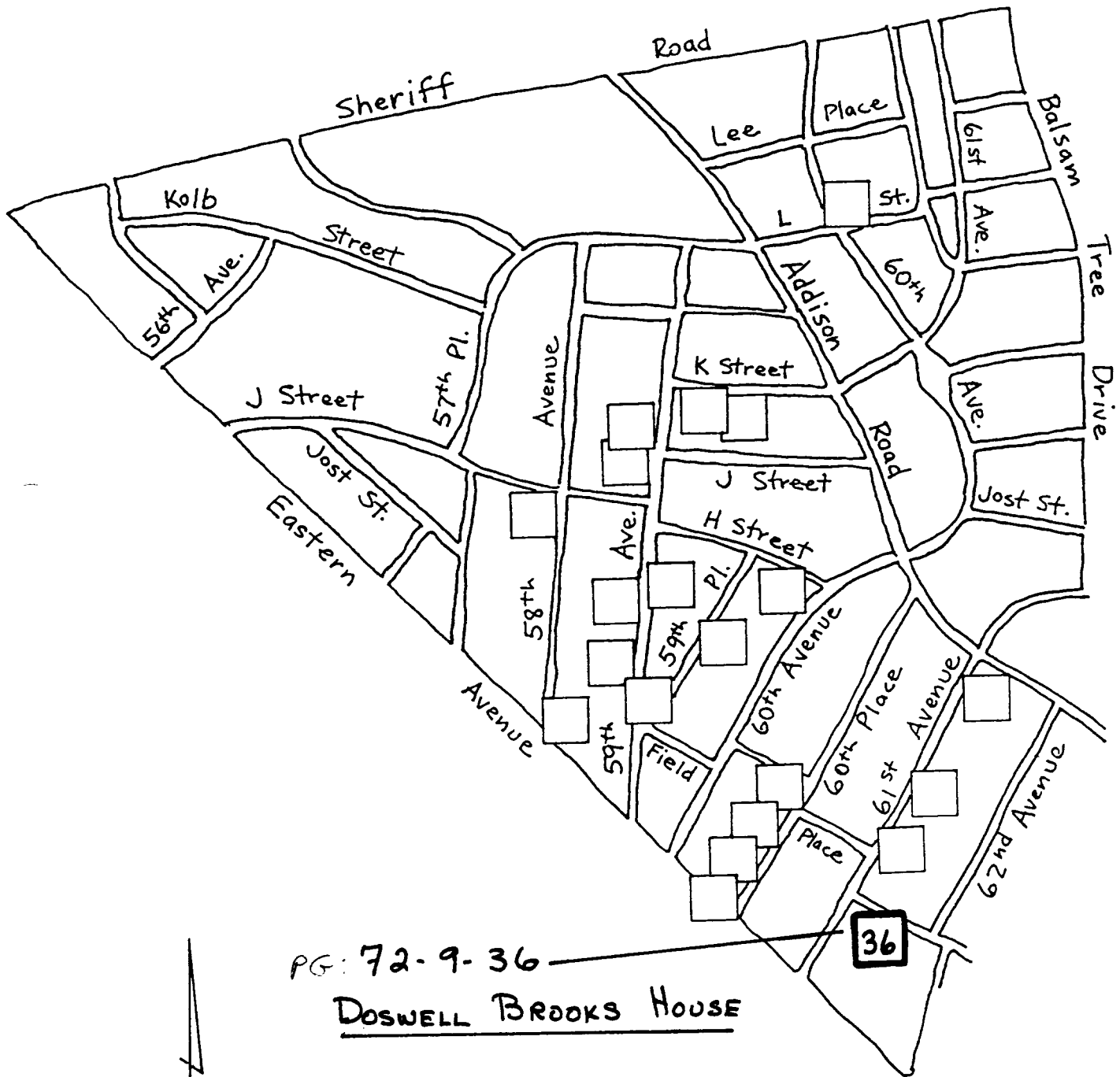
name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission date June 1991street & number c/o M-NCPPC, 4th floor CAB telephone 301-952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

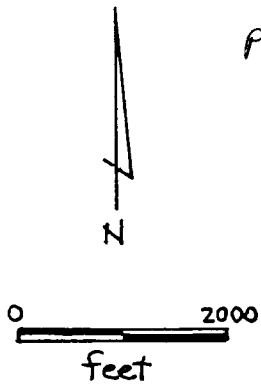
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

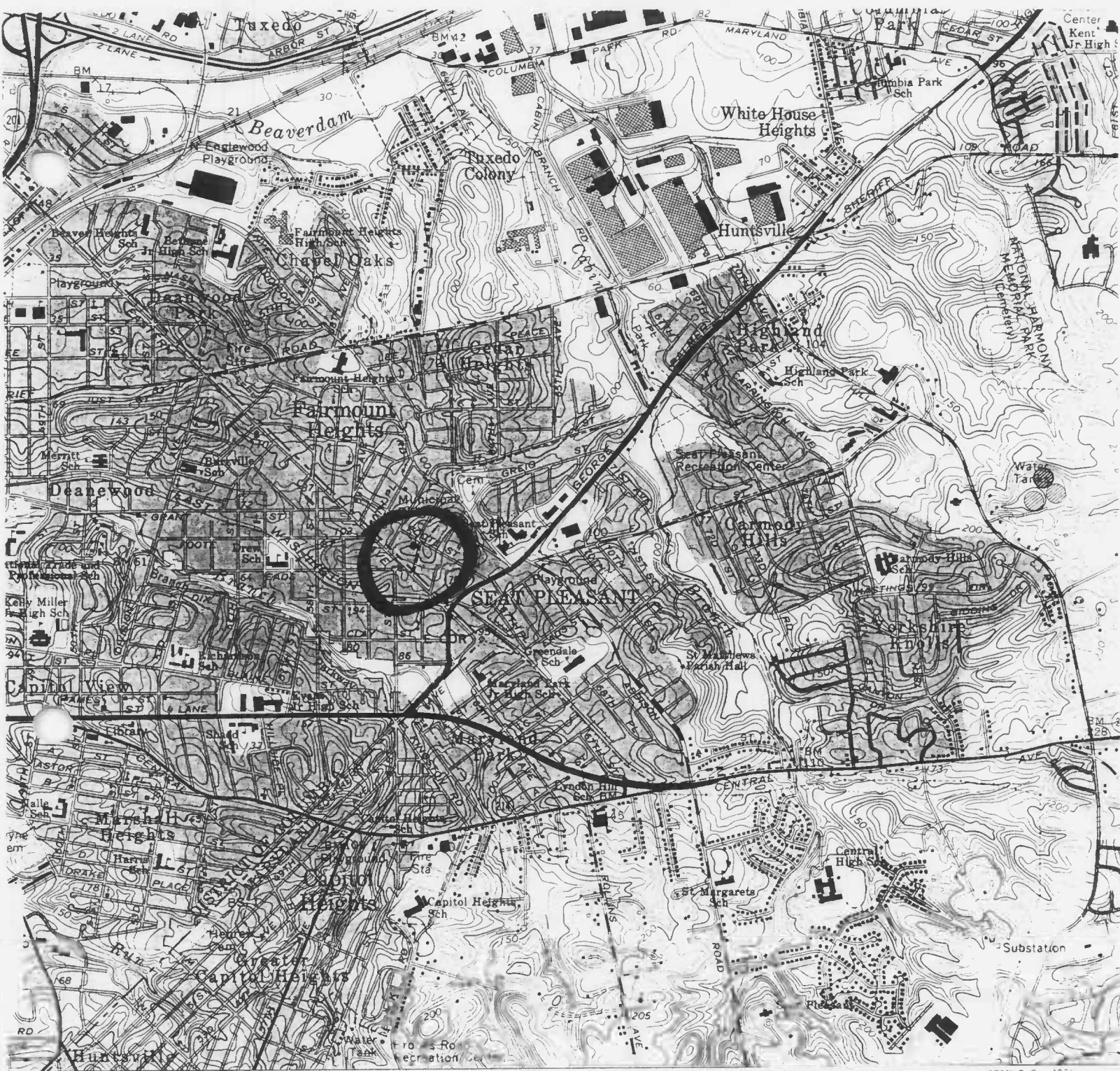
Town of Fairmount Heights



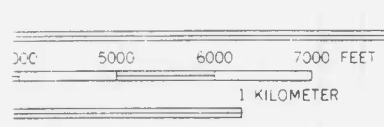
PG: 72-9-36

DOSWELL BROOKS HOUSE





DISTRICT HEIGHTS 2.3 MI. UPPER MARLBORO 11 MI. 55' 334 335000m E INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON D.C.—1976 76



0 FEET  
EVEL  
ATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
ATELY FEET

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
MBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PG: 72-9-36  
**72-9-36**



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	=====
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route	○ State Ro	

WASHINGTON EAST, MD.—D. (N3852.5—W7652.5/7.5

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5661 IV NW—SERIES V833





PG # 72-7-36

Aswell Bros House

6107 Footh Ave, Sacramento Heights

(M.W. : 8)

Prince George's Co. MD.

Susan H. Paehl

February 1991

North facade

Ref: 11117